

17. (Amended) A flexible container comprising:  
a plurality of panels joined together to form a sleeve, the panels each having an end edge that cooperate to define an imaginary plane at one end of the sleeve; and  
an end panel connected to the panels at the one end of the sleeve, the end panel having a plurality of converging surfaces, the surfaces having at least one portion extending outwardly from the sleeve beyond the imaginary plane when the end panel is in an unfolded position.

18. (Amended) The container of claim 17 further comprising a second end panel at a second end of the sleeve and having a plurality of converging surfaces which extend outwardly from the sleeve.

19. (Amended) The container of claim 17 wherein the end panel is in a position folded on top of one of the plurality of panels when the flexible container is in a folded position.

Please add claims 24-27 as follows:

24. A flexible container comprising:  
a plurality of panels joined together to form a sleeve, the panels each having an end edge that cooperate to define an imaginary plane at one end of the sleeve; and  
an end panel connected to the panels at the one end of the sleeve, the end panel having at least one portion extending beyond the imaginary plane;  
wherein one of the panels has a port with a port closure connected thereto, the port closure comprising:  
a tube having a first end and a second end, the first end adapted to be connected to the port;  
a plug inserted into the second end of the tube, the plug being made from a gas permeable porous material;

a cover having a first member and a second member, the second end of the tube being positioned between the members, the members being sealed together at their respective peripheral edges; and

an elastic band wrapped around the cover and tube.

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a) 25. A flexible container comprising:

a plurality of panels joined together to form a sleeve, the panels each having an end edge that cooperate to define an imaginary plane at one end of the sleeve; and

an end panel connected to the panels at the one end of the sleeve, the end panel having at least one portion extending beyond the imaginary plane, the end panel comprising a plurality of connecting members which converge to a polygon.

26. A flexible container comprising:

a plurality of panels joined together to form a sleeve, the panels each having an end edge that cooperate to define an imaginary plane at one end of the sleeve; and

an end panel connected to the panels at the one end of the sleeve, the end panel having at least one portion extending beyond the imaginary plane, the end panel comprising a plurality of connecting members;

wherein one of the panels has a port.

27. A flexible container, comprising:

a plurality of panels connected together and defining an interior space, at least one of the panels having a port with access to the interior space, the flexible container having a collapsed position folded on itself and an expanded, unfolded position, at least one of the panels having a plurality of gusset end segments which extend outwardly away from the interior space.